In the Claims:

Please amend claim 79 as indicated below, by changing "method" to "system".

No other amendments are made to the allowed claims, and no new matter is added.

1-59 (canceled)

60. (previously presented) A system for directing data over an internet protocol (IP) network, the system comprising:

a plurality of remote network appliances adapted to receive data via the IP network;

a network router communicatively coupled to the IP network;

a plurality of source network nodes, each source network node including a computer programmed with application routing functions for providing, to the network router, information regarding data available at the source network node, and for routing data to a remote network appliance via the IP network;

the network router adapted to receive said provided information regarding data available at the source network nodes and to respond to a request for data routing to one of the plurality of remote network appliances by ascertaining availability of the requested data at the plurality of source network nodes using information provided thereby, by selecting one of the source network nodes that bears the requested data and by communicating with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request; and

wherein the computer at the selected source network node is adapted to respond to the communication from the network router by implementing the programmed application routing functions to route the requested data from the selected source network node to the remote network appliance specified in the request.

61. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is further adapted to track the routing of requested data to the plurality of remote network appliances and to store information characterizing the tracked routing.

62. (previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the network router is further adapted to use the tracked routing to bill at least one of a user at a source network node and a user at a remote network appliance for data transferred to the remote network appliance from the source network node.

63. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the source network nodes provide information regarding data available at the source network node by providing information characterizing data-rich media content available at the source network node, and wherein the network router facilitates routing of the data-rich media content in response to a request therefore.

64. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the source network nodes are personal computers coupled to the Internet.

65. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to identify a least-cost route for routing the requested data to the one of the plurality of remote network appliances and to communicate with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request by directing the computer at the selected source network node to route the requested data over the identified least-cost route.

66. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to identify a route for routing the requested data as a function of a rate at which the requested data can be sent over the identified route, and to communicate with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request by directing the computer at the selected source network node to route the requested data over the identified route.

67. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, further comprising a buffer adapted to receive data routed from the computer at the selected source network node, to store at least a portion of the received data and, at a later time, to send the stored received data to the remote network appliance specified in the request.

68. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to provide a graphic template and a list of content files to a remote network appliance, and to respond to a request for routing one of the content files to one of the plurality of remote network appliances by selecting one of the source network nodes that bears the requested content file and by communicating with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request.

69. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router administratively controls the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request.

70. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router provides authorization for a particular user submitting the request for data routing to one of the plurality of remote network appliances, and communicates with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the routing request in response to the provided authorization.

71. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to monitor data traffic on communication links available for use in routing the requested data, and to select one of the available communication links as a function of the monitored data traffic.

72. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein

the network router is adapted to detect delivery-related characteristics of available communication links for routing data, the delivery-related characteristics including at least one of: data transmission accuracy, data transmission speed, data transmission security and data transmission time, and

the network router is adapted to communicate with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request by selecting one of the available communications links as a function of the detected delivery-related characteristics and by

facilitating routing of the requested data over the selected one of the available communications links.

73. (previously presented) The system of claim 72, wherein the network router is adapted to delay transfer of the requested data in response to detecting a delivery-related characteristic of a selected communications link indicating that the selected communications link is unable to handle additional data transfer.

74. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is programmed to track and report information regarding transfer of requested data.

75. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein one of the source network nodes is programmed to track and report the transfer of requested data from the one of the source network nodes.

76. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein

a computer at a particular source network node is programmed with application routing functions for providing, to the network router, information regarding streaming data available at the particular source network node, and for streaming data to a remote network appliance via the IP network, and

wherein the network router receives said provided information regarding the available streaming data and responds to a request for streaming data at one of the plurality of remote network appliances by ascertaining availability of the requested streaming data at the particular source network node using information provided thereby, and by communicating with the computer at the particular source network node to facilitate the streaming data routing request; and

wherein the computer at the particular source network node is adapted to respond to the communication from the network router by implementing the programmed application routing

functions to stream the requested streaming data from the particular source network node to the remote network appliance specified in the request.

77. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the at least one of the remote network appliances is adapted to decrypt the routed data to make it available for use.

78. (previously presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to detect the amount of traffic on a portion of the IP network and to communicate with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request by directing the source network node to route the requested data as a function of the detected amount of traffic.

79. (currently amended) The system ~~method~~ of claim 60, wherein the network router is adapted to respond to a request for data routing that includes a routing priority, and to communicate with the computer at the selected source network node to facilitate the data routing request as a function of the routing priority.